

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 02713 230951Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, PFOR, BU (MAREVA, RUMYANA AND YORDANKA)
SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILY CASE: HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATION RE MAREV

REF: A) STATE 306046; B) SOFIA 2639; C) STATE 307582

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED DEC 22 ON VICE FOREIGN MINISTER BORIS TSVETKOV TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON THE MAREV CASE. EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS CARRYING IT TO TSVETKOV'S LEVEL BECAUSE OF POLITICAL NATURE OF THE CASE, AND PLACED IT ENTIRELY IN THE CONTEXT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV'S PROMISE OF LAST MARCH TO WASH UP THE DIVIDED FAMILIES ISSUE.

2. AFTER SUMMARIZING FACTS OF THE CASE, AMB SAID TROUBLE SEEMS TO BE THAT MATTER HAS BEEN HANDLED SO FAR BY MFA CONSULAR SECTION, WHICH NATURALLY ENOUGH CONCERNED ITSELF WITH THE "TECHNICAL ASPECTS" OF THE PROBLEM. WHAT WAS IMPORTANT NOW, AND WHAT WE REQUESTED, WAS THAT MATTER BE LIFTED OUT OF CONSULAR CONTEXT AND PLACED IN BROADER POLITICAL CONTEXT.

3. EMPHASIZING THAT ARGUMENT ABOUT LEGALITIES OF CITIZENSHIP ETC. ARE PRECISELY WHAT SHOULD BE AVOIDED, AMB NEVERTHELESS REFERRED IN PASSING TO THE 1924 TREATY ON NATURALIZATION AND LEFT A COPY OF IT WITH YANKOV OF FOURTH DEPARTMENT. ALSO REFERRED TO THE ARMITAGE-POPOV CONVERSATION OF
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PAGE 02 SOFIA 02713 230951Z

DEC 18, OF WHICH TSVETKOV SEEMED AS YET UNAWARE. (REP OF CONSULAR DEPT WAS NOT PRESENT DURING MEETING, BECAUSE WE HAD IDENTIFIED SUBJECT AS "POLITICAL".)

4. WEIGHT OF OUR PRESENTATION WAS PUT ON THE FACT THAT THE MAREV CASE IS ENGAGING THE ATTENTION OF SENATORS AND

CONGRESSMEN, AND OF HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT, WHO ARE THUS FOCUSSED ON AN ASPECT OF OUR RELATIONS WHICH WE SHOULD HAVE PUT BEHIND US AFTER THE ZHIVKOV ASSURANCES; AND THAT THEREFORE IT WAS IN BULGARIAN INTEREST TO SETTLE THE MATTER EXPEDITIOUSLY, OVERRIDING IF NECESSARY THE "TECHNICALITIES" THAT MIGHT BE ADDUCED BY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT SEE THE LARGER PICTURE OF OUR DEVELOPING RELATIONS.

5. NOT HAVING BEEN BRIEFED BEFOREHAND, TSVETKOV SAID LITTLE MORE THAN THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY LOOK INTO THE MATTER. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT AGREEMENT TO SETTLE DIVIDED FAMILY CASES DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM COULD BE SETTLED; AND TRIED TO DISPARAGE THE HUMANITARIANISM OF POLITICAL FIGURES WHO CHAMPION DIVIDED FAMILIES "FOR THEIR OWN REASONS", AS HE PUT IT. AMB REPLIED THAT CONCERN IN THE MAREV CASE IS GENUINELY HUMANITARIAN, AND THAT IN FACT BOTH US AND BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES SEEM TO AGREE THAT THE FAMILY SHOULD BE REUNITED.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT THIS DEMARCHE ALONE, EVEN THOUGH PRECEDED BY THE ARMITAGE-POPOV CONVERSATION, WILL MOVE THE CASE OFF DEAD-CENTER, SINCE FOR THE BULGARIANS THERE ARE ALSO POLITICAL REASONS NOT TO ACCOMMODATE MAREV. WE SHALL PROBABLY HAVE TO CARRY THE CASE TO STILL HIGHER LEVEL. OFTEN SUCH MATTERS ARE SETTLED IN CONNECTION WITH HIGH-LEVEL VISITS IN EITHER DIRECTION. IT IS TOO BAD THAT WE HAVE NO SUCH VISIT IN THE OFFING AT THIS TIME.
HERZ

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